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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
23 June 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report
(As of 4:30 p.m. EDT)

UNITED NATIONS

1. The announcement last night of the President's meeting today with Kosygin has been greeted with sighs of relief at the United Nations -- at least by those delegations which the US mission has contacted. While several delegates were skeptical that a "solution" to the crisis would emerge from the talks, most felt the meeting would "improve the atmosphere." Whether or not this proves to be the case, the need to assess the results of the meeting seems likely initially to slow the numerous, plodding, and still unsuccessful efforts to work out some kind of compromise solution around which a majority of the General Assembly might coalesce.

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a drift towards a somewhat more negotiable position. A member of the Rumanian mission has gone so far to claim that the Arabs -- he did not say which ones -- considered the substance of the US resolution "not bad" but they could not accept it because it was a "US draft."

4. Whether these are meaningful indications of a greater possibility for some eventual compromise is, however, very difficult to say. The Arabs are known to have taken heart, for example, from De Gaulle's 21 June statement; the Soviet intentions in the area are obviously critical; and much will depend on where the non-aligned countries eventually come down in the Assembly deliberations. In the last connection, predictions in some quarters that De Gaulle's position would strongly influence the views of the Francophone delegations do not thus far appear to have been borne out. Secretary Rusk, who lunched with all the OCAM delegates yesterday, found in fact that their views were close to those set forth in the US resolution -- the main difficulty being the US label. There is some evidence that the Egyptians have been uncertain of the extent of their African support. A member of the UAR mission complained bitterly on 22 June that the Africans had not supported Egypt during the war, that this called for a reevaluation of UAR "neutral bloc policy", and that the UAR should not from now on place the policy of non-alignment above its own interests.

5. France's position in the crisis continues to be the subject of comment -- and wonder. According to the press, De Gaulle reiterated yesterday his conviction that there is a link between the hostilities in Vietnam

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and the crisis in the Middle East. He is quoted as having said: "In Vietnam, there is the beginning of a third world war. -- This war is the only thing which prevents the Russians and the Americans from reaching an understanding. -- Because of the war, the Russians and the Americans can no longer bear the sight of each other." While the Glassboro meeting will presumably cast some doubt on the latter statement, Ambassador Bohlen is inclined to believe that the French leader has no new moves in mind in the Middle East at present and is bitter about the small role which France is able to play -- even by exploiting its special ties with Moscow.

6. In any case, De Gaulle's statements appear to have cost him some further support in Western Europe. The Italian and West German press have been strongly critical, and according to Ambassador McGhee in Bonn, De Gaulle's "handling" of the Middle Eastern crisis has been an important factor in Chancellor Kiesinger's growing disenchantment with the French President. (There have in fact been numerous indications that Western Europe in general is painfully aware that it has had little or no impact on the developing situation in the area, accompanied by new appeals for European unity.)

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10. The Embassy in Moscow reports that there is mounting evidence of dissatisfaction with the USSR's pro-Arab position among many educated Soviets. [redacted]

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[redacted] heated debates have been going on in various educational and technical institutions in Moscow. Feeling is running strongly against the USSR's support of the Arab nations which, it is argued, have a record of fanaticism and backwardness and made such a poor military showing, despite their population preponderance and the enormous amount of Soviet military aid they had.

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11. To some extent the debate is being fed by general misgivings over the Soviet regime's lack of public candor on events in the Middle East. In two recent instances, public lecturers were embarrassed by many pointed questions from the floor and did not answer them. Pro-Arab rallies have been organized to counter these signs of malaise and one of the purposes of this week's meeting of the party's ruling central committee may have been to issue guidelines to party officials and propagandists who have been caught off-balance by events. The regime probably expects this improved propaganda effort will handle whatever public opposition exists and there is no reason to think public opinion will affect present Soviet policies in the Middle East.

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12. In Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia and, to a lesser extent, Czechoslovakia there is stronger evidence of public reaction against support for the Soviet Union's pro-Arab stand. Governments of these states are more likely than the Soviet regime to be influenced by public opinion although their conduct will be mainly determined by Moscow's wishes.

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13. Public dissatisfaction may be reflected in the conduct of East European journalists covering the United Nations. [redacted] several Polish and Czechoslovak journalists have been strongly critical of the "anti-Israeli policy" which their nations are espousing in the General Assembly. One even protested to his home office, while another, who refused to discuss his displeasure with his ambassador was jarred by the ambassador's reply that he too wished he could avoid discussing the subject.

ARAB STATES

14. An editorial in Cairo's Al-Ahram accuses the US of "diplomatic deception on an unprecedented level of moral degradation." US efforts before 5 June to prevent a war in the Near East are seen as an effort to lull the Egyptians while Washington and Tel Aviv planned American technical and military support for the Sinai campaign.

15. Algiers Radio has accused Saudi Arabia of permitting ARAMCO to export a large quantity of gas to the US through South Vietnam, and comments that "the least that could be said about the recent Saudi attitude is that it is a painful blow against the Arab nation in its great battle against Anglo-US-Zionist Imperialism."

16. The exodus of refugees -- 130,000 so far according to King Husayn -- from the West Bank continues. The US Embassy in Amman believes that the Israelis are primarily interested in the departure of the poorest Arabs, particularly those who have been living in refugee camps, and that unemployment, fear of what the

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Israelis might do and food shortages are playing a larger part in the emigration than any specific Israeli activities. Some refugees, however, are claiming that Israeli soldiers forced them to leave for Jordan.

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